These projects included construction of Yatri Niwases, tourist lodges, wayside amenities, purchase of boats etc. Out of these projects 5 have been completed by the State Government and remaining are under implementation.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Govt. of India has sanctioned financial assistance of Rs. 22.40 lakhs to State of Kerala in the year 1994-95 for the construction of a tourist lodge at Aranmula, to provide accommodation facilities to tourists.

Quota at Asansol Railway Station

1896. SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no quota at Asansol Railway Station for Jodhpur Express, Howrah-Gorakhpur Express, Ganga Sagar Express, Danapur Express, Lal Quila Express and Janata Express;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the people of Asansol are demanding for alloting quota in these trains; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d). At present reservation quotas are available at Asansol station by 5047 Howrah-Gorakhpur Poorvanchal Express, 3231 Danapur Express and 5205 Ganga Sagar Express Trains. The details are given as under :

Train No.	Quota	
	AC-2 Tier	SL
5047 Poorvanchal Express	4	52
3231 Danapur Express	-	3
5205 Gangasagar Express	-	47

As the computerised reservation facility has been provided at Asansol Station linked with the computerised passenger reservation system at Calcutta, the passengers intending to travel in other trains can seek as many reservations as required on first cum first served basis.

[Translation]

Exemption in Taxes/Tariff on Steel

1897. SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Hardoi) : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has requested the Ministry of Finance for more exemption in taxes and tariffs for the steel sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Ministry of Finance thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (c). Ministry of Steel makes recommendations to Ministry of Finance on duty matters before formulation of the budget proposals every year. The recommendations for the year 1997-98 are yet to be finalised by Ministry of Steel.

[English]

Reservation of Seats in Separate Coaches

1898. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that thousands of passengers feel inconvenience and great hardship due to seats/berths belonging to a family are allotted in separate coaches and not adjacent to each other under the prevalent computerised reservation system; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government for providing accommodation in the same coach?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). The computerised system ensures that a group of passengers booked on one ticket is normally provided berths in the same cabin. However, this is not possible in those cases where most of the accommodation has already been booked and other intending passengers have excercised their right of choice for lower berths etc. The reservation clerks have instructions that under such circumstances they should inform the intending passengers that accommodation asked for is available in a scattered manner only.

Expenditure incurred on Railway Pojects in Mumbai

1899. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the estimates of total expenditure, the provision and the actual expenditure during 1995-96 and 1996-97 on Borivali-Virar quadruplicating of railway lines (Western Railway), Diva Vasai Project and Diva-Panvel Project (Central Railway), project-wise;

(b) the reasons for less expenditure;

(c) the steps taken/proposed to expedite these projects during this year; and

(d) the time by which these projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). The